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650+ ENGLISH PHRASES FOR EVERYDAY SPEAKING

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PHRASES FOR BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE ENGLISH LEARNERS

JANET GERBER

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650+ English Phrases for Everyday Speaking

Phrases for Beginning and Intermediate English Learners

By Janet Gerber
http://EnglishTonightBooks.com

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The free 5-Day e-course is on speaking and understanding English better. In this e-course you will learn a variety of ways to help you improve your English speaking and comprehension.

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Introduction

Are you a beginning or intermediate English learner?

Do you want to learn common phrases to help you improve your English speaking?

Do you have trouble talking about common subjects in English?

This book was designed for:
-Beginner and Intermediate English learners.
-English learners that would like to learn common phrases based around everyday topics
-English learners that don't know what to say and need help taking about common subject

Learning English is difficult. It is hard because there is so much to learn.

When you are learning English focus on learning phrases that you can use over and over again. Don't worry too much about verbs tenses and extensive vocabulary lists. The most important thing about learning a new language is that you are able to communicate with other people. You don't have to be perfect. You just have to try.

In this book you will learn 650+ common phrases to help you talk about forty (40) common every day subjects. This book is centered on giving you the phrases and ideas you need to talk about each subject in an everyday setting.

Each section has common phrases and questions used to talk about a central topic. It also includes example sentences to help you further your understanding.

Most sections include links to additional resources on these topics. The additional recourses are very helpful because you will have the opportunity to hear and watch videos about these subjects online and learn more vocabulary and phrase about topics that interest you.

Remember when learning a language, it is important to improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills; not just one at a time.

This book is <u>not</u> for:
-people who love grammar rules
-people who are advanced learners or native speakers of the English language
-people who have a very basic understanding or don't understand any English

This is not a text book. This book is a compilation of common phrases and resources about topics that are common in every day speaking.

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About the Author:

My name is Janet Gerber. I am a teacher and language learner just like you. My goal is to help you improve English using practical methods… I will never encourage you to memorize verb tenses or word lists.

I run the website English Tonight, where you can find English lessons and activities to help you learn English online in your own time.

Other books Janet Gerber has written:
How to Speak English Fluently

Ready to learn some new phrases? Great let's get started.

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Greeting Someone

Greeting someone is what you do when you first see them… basically saying 'Hello'. There are many different ways people greet each other in English. Some being formal or appropriate for every situation and others being informal and something you should say only to close friends or family.

In the United States, the most common way to greet someone with words. In formal situations or when you meet someone for the first time you shake hands. Some people wave at one another. In informal situations with people you know (family or good friends) you may hug or kiss one another.

Formal Greetings

Hello
Hello _____! (Insert name of person)
How are you?
How are you doing?
How have you been?
Good Morning!
Good Afternoon!
Good Evening!

Informal Greetings

Hi!
Hey!
What's up?
How's it going?
What's new?
What have you been up to?
How are ya?

Additional Resources

Click here to hear audio of some formal and informal greetings in English.

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Saying Good-Bye

How you say good-bye in English depends on who you are talking to. There are formal, informal and VERY informal ways to say good-bye.

Similar to greetings, some people shake hands, wave, hug and kiss but this varies from situation to situation. It is best to follow what other people are doing or to do what makes you comfortable.

Formal
Good-Bye
Have a nice day!
It was nice seeing you again.
I look forward to seeing you again.
Take care.
Good night!

Informal
Bye
Bye-Bye
See you later! Or- See you soon!
Talk to you later.
Take it easy.
I've got to get going.
I've got to run.

Really Informal
Check you later.
I'm out. Or- I'm out of here.
I'm off.
I've gotta take off.
See ya.
Peace

Additional Resources
Video on 10 basic ways to 'Say Good-Bye' in English.

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Introductions

When you meet someone for the first time you need to introduce yourself, which means telling them who you are.

When you are introducing yourself or someone else you can also share a little more information. For example… your job title, how you know the host, or something else about yourself.

Introducing Yourself
Hello, I'm _____.
I am _____.
Hey, I'm _____.

Introducing Someone Else (Formal)
This is _____. He/She is my co-worker.
This is _____. He/She is _____.
I'd like to introduce you to _____, the _____at _____.
I would like you to meet _____.

Introducing Someone Else (Informal)
This is _____.
This is my friend _____.

Examples Introductions
- Hi! I'm Elizabeth, Eric's cousin.
- Hey, I'm Betsy. I'm the new project manager.
- This is Carl. He is our new IT manager.
- This is my girlfriend Paula.
- I'd like you to meet Anna. She has been a friend of mine for ten years.

Additional Resources
1- Video on introducing yourself.

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Talking about Likes

There are different ways to say you like or enjoy something in English.

I like…
I enjoy…
My favorite _____ is…

If you really like something and want to emphasize how much you like it, you could use one of the phrases below.

I love…
I really like/love…
I adore…

Example Sentences
- I like pizza.
- I like to read books by Dr. Seuss.
- Peter enjoys running in the snow.
- I enjoy this peace and quiet.
- I love eating sushi. It is so delicious.
- I love learning new things.
- Bob really loves the new morning program on NBC.
- I really like taking long walks in on the beach.
- I adore Maria. She is such a nice girl.
- My favorite movie is Top Gun. It is full of action.

Additional Resources
1- You can listen to a podcast on likes and dislikes here.

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Talking about Dislikes

There are many ways to talk about things you don't likes. Below you will find some sentence starters and example sentences.

I don't like…
I don't enjoy…
I dislike…*
I hate…
My least favorite _____ is…

Example Sentences
I don't like fish.
I don't like to pick up after my kids.
I don't enjoy eating spicy food.
I don't enjoy talking to my boss.
I dislike this song.*
I hate bugs.
I hate crying babies. They give me a headache.
My least favorite food is spinach.
My least favorite season is winter.

* Dislike is not very commonly used in American English. You can use it and it is correct but not used as often as 'don't like' or 'hate'.

Additional Resources
Video: Talking about your likes and dislikes

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What do you do? /Jobs

What do you do, is a common question. It is what you ask someone when you want to know what they work in or how they spend their time. It is impolite and not common to directly ask someone, “What is your job?” in English.

When someone asks you “What do you do?” they mean…
What do you work in?
What do you do for a living?
How do you spend most of your time?

Possible Ways to Answer
I’m a …
I am…
I work as a…

Example Sentences
I’m a teacher.
I’m a full time student.
I’m a stay at home mom.
I work as an engineer.
I am in between jobs right now.
I am a retired nurse.
I’m a college student and work part-time as a bartender.
I work in a paper factory.
I work in sales for a large telecommunications company.

Addition Resources
1- Different examples of how you can respond to ‘What do you do?’
2- Video about asking and answering ‘What do you do?’ in English

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What Are You Doing Right Now?

In the United States, it is common to ask someone ‘What are doing?’. If someone asks you this, they want to know what you are doing in this exact moment.

I am + verb +ing

Example Sentences
I am reading a book.
I am practicing English.
I am talking on the phone.
I am learning to speak English.
I am writing a note.
I am cooking dinner
I am cleaning the kitchen.
I am washing clothes.
I am driving to work.
I am at work.
I am making an appointment.
I am paying bills online.
I am chatting with my friends on Skype.

If you aren’t don’t anything really interesting you could respond by saying:

Nothing
Nothing much
Not much

Additional Resources:
Song about ‘What are you doing? to help practice present continuous.

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Talking about the Past

It is very common to talk about things that already happened. If something already happened or is finished it is in the past. Below you will find some sentence starters and example sentences to help you talk about things you have done in the past.

Most Common Verbs Used to Talk about the Past

I went…
I ate…
I was…
I read…
I played…
I saw…
I talked to…
I worked…

Example Sentences:

I went to work.
I ate spaghetti for lunch.
I read two books over the weekend.
I saw a movie.
I talked to my friend.

List of Common 'Times' in the Past

Yesterday…
Two days ago…
Seven years ago…
An hour ago…
A little bit ago…
Last week…
Last month…
Last year…
When I was a kid…
When I was growing up…

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Talking about the Future

Talking about something that you will do or want to do in the future is very common. Below you will learn some phrases to help you talk about the future or something that hasn't happened yet.

The two most common phrases used to talk about the future are:
I will…
I am going to…

List of Common 'Times' in the Future
Tomorrow…
Next week…
Next month…
Next year…
In a few weeks…
In a few years…
When I retire…

Example Sentences
I will go on vacation in June.
I will meet with my friends on Friday.
I will go shopping next week.
Tomorrow I am going swimming.
Next year I am moving to Boston.
I am going to get married in a few years.
When I retire I am going to travel a lot.

Additional Resources
1- Video talking about 'Will and Going to'
2- 10 Expressions to use when talking about the future
3- Another Video on 'Will and be going to'
4- What are you going to do this weekend? Video

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Routines

A routine is something you do every day or often. Below you will learn different phrases to help you explain your routines.

List of some things you do every day or often:
Wake up, go to sleep, brush your teeth, take a shower, use the internet, cook, clean, drive, talk to your husband or wife, study, read, etc.
I _____ every day.
On _____ and _____, I _____.
Every _____, I _____.
I _____ three times a week.

Example Sentences
I wake up at 7am.
I work out four days a week.
I play baseball every Sunday.
I go to work every day.
I go to school five days a week.
I brush my teeth every day.
I drink coffee every morning.
On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I go to English class.
I take a shower every night.
I eat three times a day.
I go to Italy every summer.

Additional Resources
1- Video about activities your do every day
2- Vocabulary often used when talking about daily routines
3- Song about routines in English

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Hobbies & Free Time

A hobby is something that you do in your free time. It is something that you enjoy doing and do often. Free time is a time when you don't have to work or don't have any other obligations.

In American English it is not common to use the word hobby. It is more common to ask say:
What do you like to do for fun?
What do you like to do in your free time?

Common ways to respond to these questions are:
In my free time, I…
I like _____ in my free time.
I _____ every week.
I am learning to…
When I'm not working, I like to…

Example Sentences
In my free time, I like to work out at the gym.
I like to spend time with my family and friends in my free time.
I am learning to play the guitar.
When I'm not working, I like to run and play soccer.
I like to read novels in my free time.
I go to a cooking class every week.
I am learning to knit. I not very good at it yet but I am getting better.

Additional Resources
Video: What do you do for fun?
Video: 3 min. English- Ask what someone's hobbies are.

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Family

Everyone's family is different. Below you will find some phrases to help you talk about your family.

Phrases To Talk about Your Family:
There are ____ people in my family.
I live with my _____ and _____.
I have _____ brothers and sisters.
I have _____ children.
I have a small/large family.
I live close to my family.
I live far away from my family.

Questions you can ask someone about their family?
How many children do you have?
Do you have a large (or small) family?
Do you live near your extended family?
Did you grow up here?
How many siblings do you have?

Additional Resources:
1- Basic Family Vocabulary
2- Video- Talking about your family
3- Video- Talking about your family (intermediate)

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Relationships

Talking about someone's personal relationships can be a touchy (or sensitive) subject. Don't talk to someone about their relationships until you get to know them a little more.

Common Vocabulary Used When Talking about Relationships:
Single: alone, not in a relationship
Married: in a committed relationship
Divorced: formally married, now alone
In a relationship: in a relationship, but may not be that serious
Platonic relationship: just friends, no sexual
Friends: Someone you like to spend time with
Friends with benefits: people who have sex together but are not in a relationship
Hook up: someone you have sex with once, but not in a relationship
Make out: kiss a lot
Break up: end a relationship

Example Sentences
1- After a horrible break up and divorce, I am happy to be single again.
2- We have been happily married for 10 years.
3- My brother is not in a relationship. He likes to hook up with random girls.

Questions to ask someone about their relationship:
Are you single?
How long have you been married (together)?
When did you get divorced?
Have you been friends for a long time?
How did you meet each other?

Additional Resources:
1- Video Lesson: Love, Dating and Relationships
2- Expressions about Love and Relationships
3- Video: Phrases for Describing Relationships

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Personal Characteristics

There are many ways to describe someone. Below you will learn some of the most basic ways to describe someone.

There are many links in the resources section to help you expand you vocabulary and understanding of this topic.

I am… He/She is….

tall/short
fat*/skinny/average
beautiful/pretty (used for describing women)
handsome/good-looking (used for describing men)

*It is not considered polite to call people fat, even if they are. It is customary to avoid this topic or say 'overweight' instead of fat or obese.

Common Characteristics to describe someone's personality:
Talkative (talks a lot)
Hard-worker (enjoys working a lot)
Athletic (enjoys sports)
Smart/intelligent
Funny (enjoy jokes, good sense of humor)
Easy-going (goes with the flow, enjoys most things)
Lazy (does not do a lot)
Mean (rude, has a bad attitude, treats other people badly)

Additional Resources:
List of Words to Physically Describe Someone in English
List of Words to Describe Someone's Personality in English
Video: 37 Ways to Describe to Someone's Personal Appearance
Video/Song: Describing People Vocabulary
Video: People describing each other

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Food

Everyone loves to eat, right? Below you will find some phrases to help you talk about food and eating in English.

My favorite food is_____.
My least favorite food is _____.
I like to eat _____.
I don't like to eat _____.
I have never tried _____.
I like to cook _____.
My _____ cooks the best _____.
I don't know how to cook _____.
I would like to learn to cook _____.
I don't cook.
I only know how to cook _____ and _____.
This is delicious.

Example Sentences
1- My favorite food is spaghetti with meatballs.
2- My least favorite food is sushi.
3- I like to eat Chinese food.
4- I like to cook Mexican food. Spicy food is my favorite.
5- My mom cooks the best potato salad.

Questions To Ask About Food and Cooking?
1- What's your favorite food?
2- What kind of food do you like?
3- Do you like _____ food?
4- Are you a good cook?
5- What are you good at cooking?
6- Have you ever tried _____?
7- Can you give me the recipe for this?
8- What is in this food?

Additional Resources:
Video about food and restaurants

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Weather

The weather is a very common conversation topic. The weather affects everyone, no matter where they are.

There are four seasons each year: fall, winter, spring and summer. The weather in each season will vary depending on where you are (geographically) and the year. Some countries experience more mild seasons whereas others experience extreme highs and lows.

Common Phrases about the Weather
It's sunny.
It's cloudy.
It's rainy.
It's hot out today.
It's freezing today.
I hate ____ weather. (cold, hot, rainy, etc.)
I love this weather.
I'm sick and tired of this weather.

Questions to Ask About the Weather:
What's the weather like today?
Is it going to _____? (rain, snow, be hot, be cold, storm, etc.)
Do you like this weather?
Do you like hot weather?
When will this weather ever end?
Is it supposed to _____ tomorrow? (rain, snow, be hot, etc.)
What's your favorite season?
Isn't it beautiful today?

Additional Resources:
Video- How to talk about the Weather
Video- The Weather
Video- Weather Vocabulary

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Transportation

There are many different means of transportation. The most common being: cars, trains, subway, planes, bicycle and walking.

Below you will learn some phrases that you can use to talk about transportation.

I take the bus to _____ every day.
I drive to _____ every day.
I rarely _____ to work. It is too far away.
I don't take the _____. It does not have a reliable schedule.

Commute- the act of going to and from work
Traffic- when there are a lot of cars/vehicles on the road
A ride- when someone else brings you somewhere in their car

Example Sentences:
1- I take the bus to work every day.
2- My commute takes two hours. There is always a lot of traffic.
3- I ride my bike to work.
4- We usually walk to stores. If we have to go far we drive in the car.

Questions to Ask about Transportation:
How do you get to school?
How do you get to work?
Do you take public transportation?
Do you have a long/short commute?
Do you drive to work every day?
Do you use public transportation?
Where's the closest bus stop to here?
Does this bus/train go to _____?
What time does the next _____ come? (bus, train, etc.)

Additional Resources:
Video: Public Transportation
Video: Means of Transportation Vocabulary

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Telling Time

Time is important. In the United States it is customary to be punctual or arrive on time to places. It is not common to arrive late or after a designated meeting time. It is considered rude to arrive late.

When reading a clock, it is customary to state the exact time. Some people round up but telling the exact time is more common.

For example:
2:00= It's two o'clock.
10:15= It's ten fifteen.
4:30= It's four thirty. (In British English uses 'half past' instead of '30'.
6:45= It's six forty-five. or it's a quarter to seven.
11:25= It's eleven twenty-five.

If it's almost a time you can say….
It's almost _____.
1:57 = It's almost two.

Questions You Can Ask about Time
What time is it?
What time do you work?
What time do you go to school?
What time do you get out of school?
What time does the movie start?
What time does the class end?
When does the aerobics class meet?
How long is the English class?

Additional Resources:
Video: Telling Time in American English
Video: Expressing Time in English

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Directions

Sometimes you need help finding something or someplace. Below are common phrases used to talk about directions in English.

Excuse me, where is…..?
I need to get to _____.

On/at the corner
Between: in the middle of two things
Near/Close to…: immediately close to something
Far away from: not near, distant
Straight
Opposite: in front of, contrary side

Example Sentences
1- The school is in between South Ave. and Birch Street.
2- Go straight for three blocks and then turn right. It is the third house from the corner.
3- McDonalds is opposite Taco Bell in the food court at the mall.
4- I live close to West Tower on Broadway Ave.

Questions Used to Ask for/Give Directions
Where is _____?
How do you get to _____?
Where is the nearest _____?
Can you tell me how to get to _____?
Could you tell me where the _____ is?
Is there a _____ close by?

Additional Resources:
Video: How to give directions in English
Video: Learn how to give directions
Video: Basic Vocabulary for giving directions

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Calendar

There are seven (7) days of the week. In the United States, Sunday is the first day of the week. Days and Months are capitalized in English. So, they start with a BIG letter.

Days: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday

Months: January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

Date:
For stating the date you need to use ordinal numbers in English. (First, second, third, etc.)

Today is _____.
Yesterday was _____.
Tomorrow will be _____.

Examples of the date:
May 18th= Say: May eighteenth
December 25th- Say: December twenty-fifth
January 1st, 2014= Say: January first, two thousand fourteen
March 9th, 2012= Say: March ninth, two thousand twelve
November 15th, 1980= Say: November fifteenth, nineteen eighty
October 31st, 1954= Say: October thirty first, nineteen fifty-four
July 19th, 1846= Say: July nineteenth, eighteen forty-six.

Weekday = Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
Weekend= Saturday and Sunday
Holiday= Special day, usually celebrating something (Independence day, Christmas, Mother's Day, etc.)
Birthday= the day someone was born (February 11th, December 6th, etc.)

Questions about the Calendar:
What day is today?
What is today's date?
What day do you _____?
How many days do you _____ a week? (work, go to school, study, etc.)
What year were you born?
What year did you _____? (go to Brazil, move to New York, etc.)

Additional Resources:
Video: Questions about the calendar
Video: Days of the week
Video/Song: Months of the year
Video: How to pronounce Ordinal numbers

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Numbers

Knowing how to read and understand numbers are an essential part of improving your English language skills.

Look in the resources section on learning basic numbers 0-99.

Large numbers:
100= one hundred
1,000= one thousand
10,000= ten thousand
100,000= one-hundred thousand
1,000,000= one million

Reading large numbers:
346= three hundred forty-six
739= seven hundred thirty-nine
4,692= four thousand six-hundred ninety-two
8,115= eight thousand one hundred and fifteen
34,999= thirty-four thousand nine-hundred ninety-nine
58,301= fifty eight thousand, three-hundred one
245,279= two hundred forty five thousand two hundred seventy nine

When talking about numbers or the amount of something you will say… 'How many _____?'

For example:
How many eggs are in a dozen?
How many students are in the class?
How many people went to the party?

When talking about money you will use 'How much…?"

For example:
How much does a box of cookies cost?
How much do I owe you?
How much does it cost?
How much do you make an hour?
How much did he pay you?
How much do you pay for car insurance?

Additional Resources:
Video: Numbers 0-99
Video/Song: Big Numbers Song
Video: Reading Big Numbers in English
Video: Reading numbers in English

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Where are you from?/Nationalities

What is your nationality? Where are you from?
When someone wants to know what country or place you are from they would ask you this question. You can state which nationality you are or which

I am_____.

Examples for stating your nationality:
I am American.
He is French.
She is Brazilian.
My mother is Spanish.
He is Dominican.

Where are you from?
It is common to state where you are from, by stating the country, state or city you grew up in.

I am from _____.

Examples:
I am from Germany.
He is from Japan.
She is from New York.
My grandpa is from Sweden.
My friend is from Egypt.

Where do you live now?
When talking about the present you would state where you live now or presently.

I live in _____.

Examples:
I live in Miami, Florida.
He lives in Buenos Aires.
My brother lives in the Philippines.
She lives in Los Angeles.

Additional Resources:
Video: Nationalities in English
Video: Where are you from? Where do you live?
Nationalities Vocabulary with Audio

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TV & Movies

Watching TV and movies is something that most people enjoy.

Below you will find vocabulary, phrases and resources to help you talk about TV and movies in English.

Talking about TV:

Common Types of TV shows:
Sitcom- amusing show about fictional characters
Cartoon- animated drawings
Reality- follows real people around, doing 'real' things,
Soap Opera- fictional show that goes on for a long time and is often very dramatic

I like to watch _____shows.
My favorite TV program is _____.
I don't watch TV.
Did you see the last episode of _____?
What happened last night on _____?

Talking about Movies:
Many people like to go to the movie theater, rent movies or view movies online.

Common Movie Genres:
Comedy, action, drama, horror, family, romance and thriller.

Rating: Many countries have a rating system that tells you who should watch the movie, from children to only adults.
Matinee: a show in the afternoon
Sequel: a second movie in a series

I heard _____ is a good/bad movie.
_____ was a great movie.
I really want to see _____.
What time is _____ movie showing?
How much does it cost to see _____?
Do you want to go to _____ with me?
Did you like the ending of _____?

Additional Resources:
Video: Talking about movies in English
Video: 12 Phrases to describe movies
Video: Talking about movies
Video: Talking about TV Shows

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Neighborhoods and Houses

There are any types of places to live; with a house and an apartment being the most common.

Below you will learn some vocabulary to help you talk about and describe where you live.

Urban: a population dense area, main area of a city
Rural: a place where very few people live
Suburb: a place outside of the city but not too far away
Apartment: several rooms that form a dwelling, there are usually many in the same building
Condo: Similar to an apartment by is usually privately owned
Duplex: house that is separated and has two separate dwelling areas
House: single family home/building
Rent: you pay a monthly fee to live in a place
Own: the property is your personal possession
Roommate: someone you live with

I rent _____.
I live in _____ .
I pay $_____ per month for rent.
I live with _____ in a _____.

Example Sentences
1- I rent a two bedroom apartment downtown. My friend John is my roommate.
2- I live in a rural area outside of Atlanta with my family.
3- We own a duplex in a suburb of Toronto.
4- My rent is $1000 per month.
5- I live with my sister in an apartment.

Additional Resources
Video: Apartments for Rent
Video: 10 Phrases for Renting an Apartment

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Grocery Shopping

Everyone needs to eat. When you need to buy food you go to the grocery store or supermarket. Below you will learn vocabulary and phrases to help you go grocery shopping.

Shopping Cart: Buggy/Car you push around and put food in
Shopping Basket: something you carry and put food in
Aisle: Corridor or lane that food is separated into

Asking for something:
Do you have _____?
Where can I find _____?

Sections of the Grocery Store
Produce: fruits and vegetables section
Dairy: milk, cheese and yogurt section
Bakery: bread, donuts, cakes section
Frozen Food: many types of food are frozen in freezers, ice cream, pizza, meals for one person, etc.
Deli: have sliced cheese and meats and salads available for purchase

Out of Stock: there are no more left
When will you get more _____?

Cashier: the person that rings up your order
Paper or plastic?: the kind of bag would you like to use; one made out of paper or one that is plastic

Coupons: paper or electronic discounts that let you purchase an item for less money
Do you have any coupons?

Additional Resources
Video: At the Grocery Store
Video: English Phrases for the Supermarket

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Restaurant or Coffee Shop

It is nice to go out to eat or drink once in a while. Order food in a public place can be difficult, especially if you are learning a new language.

Below you will find some phrases to use at restaurants or coffee shops.

I would like a table for _____.
I have a reservation for _____.

Waiter/Waitress: the person that takes orders and brings you food and drink
In the United States it is not common for you to make noises or gestures to get the waiters attention. It is best to try to make eye contact with by looking at them.

Ordering:
I would like to have _____.
Can I get _____?
Do you have any specials?
What do you recommend?

Problems/Complaints:
This is not what I ordered.
You forgot to add the _____.
This is too cold/too hot/burnt.
Could you bring me more _____?

Paying:
Could I have the bill please?
Can I get the check please?

Tip: It is common to tip (or leave more money) to the wait staff in sit down restaurants. Most people leave a 15% or 20% tip.

Extra food
Can I get a to-go box?
Can I get a take away box?
Can I get a doggy bag?

Additional Resources:
1- Video: How to order in a restaurant
2- Video: Basic English Vocabulary for Restaurants
3- Video: Expressions Used at a Restaurant

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Clothes and Shoes

Buying new clothes and shoes can be difficult when you are trying to do it in a new language.

Below you will find phrases to help you shop for clothing and shoes in a store.

Looking for Something
I am looking for _____. Can you tell me where to find it?
Where can I find _____?

Do you have this in size ____?
Do you have this in red/blue/black?
Do you have a _____ one? (bigger, smaller, shorter, longer, etc.)

Trying Clothes On
Where is the dressing room? I would like to try these on.
Can I try this on?

It fits.
It's too big.
It's too small.

Paying/Price
How much is it?
How much does this cost?

Additional Resources:
Video: Shopping for Clothes
Video: Let's go shopping!
Video: Clothing Vocabulary
Video: Talking about Shopping

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Being Sick, Doctors and Hospitals

Everyone gets sick once in a while. Below you will find phrases to help you talk about sickness in English.

Problems:
I feel sick.
I need to go to the doctor.

Cold symptoms include: Sneezing, congested, headache, sore throat, etc.
I have a cold.

Flu symptoms include: fever, chills, nausea, runny nose, sore throat, etc.
I have the flu.

What are you symptoms?
Where does it hurt?
Common Symptoms of Sickness: (symptoms – signs /concerns)
Headache- head hurts
Stomachache- stomach hurts
Dizzy- feel light headed, or that the room is spinning
Earache- ear hurts
Cough- a loud noise from lungs/mouth when you expel air
Diarrhea- go to the bathroom (defecate) at lot, many times
Toothache- tooth hurts

Example Sentences
I have a stomachache.
I have had an earache for the last week.
I have been dizzy for a few hours. I'm not sure why.

Additional Resources:
Video: Talking about being Sick
Video: 12 Questions Doctors ask Patients
Video: English Health Vocabulary

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Crime, Safety and Police

Crime, safety and police are topics that you should know how to talk about. Even if you do not experience crime first hand; you will hear and see crime talked about on the news and TV. It is a common topic.

High Crime Rate- a lot of crimes in a certain area or year
Low Crime Rate- few crimes in a certain area or year
Victim of a crime- person that had a crime committed against them

In Case of an Emergency:
Call the Police!
Call 9-1-1!

Reporting a Crime/Problem:
There is a fire at _____. (state location or address)
Someone has been hurt at _____. (state location or address)

Arrested: the police detained a person
Charged with _____:

Ticket/Fine: Money you have to pay to the police or government for breaking or violating a law. (For example: parking illegally, driving too fast, etc.)

List of Crimes/Problems:
Robbed- something was taken without permission
Pick pocketed- wallet was stolen/taken
Car Jacked- car was robbed/removed from owner
Car accident- cars hit each other and resulted in damage/injury

Additional Resources:
Video: Talking about crime

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Problems/Advice

We often have problems and need advice. Below are phrases to use to talk about your problems and how to give advice to others.

Asking about a problem
What's wrong?
What's the matter?

Problem
I am _____.

Giving Advice
You should _____.
If I were you, I would _____.
Maybe you should _____.

Examples of problems and advice:

Problem: I am cold.
Advice: You should put a sweater on.

Problem: I have a headache
Advice: Maybe you should take some medicine.

Problem: I am sick.
Advice: If I were you, I would go to the doctor.

Problem: I failed my math exam.
Advice: If I were you, I would ask the professor if you can take it again.

Additional Resources:
Video: How to Give Advice
Video: Learn to Give Advice
Video: Should, Ought to, Had Better (Advanced)

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Making Plans/Making Excuses

Everyone has to make plans; whether it is to go to a meeting or out to eat. Below you will learn some common phrases for making plans with someone and making excuses.

Ask:
Do you want to _____?
Would you like to _____?
Can you please _____?

Example Questions:
Do you want to go to the movies with me?
Would you like to go to the beach?
Can you please pick me up at 3pm?

Answering yes:
Yes!
Yes, I would.
Yes, I think that will work.

Excuses:
It is rude to just say 'no' when someone wants to make plans or do something with you.
I'd like to but _____.
I can't because _____.
Sorry, that won't work because _____.
I have other plans.
I'm busy that day.

Example Excuses:
I'd like to but I don't have any money.
I can't because I'm sick.
Sorry, that won't work because I have class.
I have other plan on Saturday.

Additional Resources:
Video: Making Plans in English

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Invitations

Knowing the correct way to invite someone to do something can be difficult in a new language. Below you will learn phrases to help you invite someone to do something in English.

Inviting Someone to do Something
Would you like to _____ with me?
Would you like to go _____ on Saturday?
I'm going to _____. Do you want to come with?
Are you free on _____?

Example Invitations:
Would you like to go out to dinner with me?
Would like to go shopping with me after class?
I'm going to the library. Do you want to come with?
Are you free on Sunday afternoon?

RSVP: means you need to let them know before the event if you will be attending. Usually you can call, email or send a card/letter back to RSVP.

Turning Down (Saying 'no' to) an Invitation:
I'm sorry I can't _____.
I'm busy that day.
I don't think that will work out.
Let me check my calendar and get back to you.

Additional Resources:
Video: Phrases for Invitations
Video: Would you like…? (polite invitations and offers)
Video: How to turn down an invitation

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Talking about Your feelings

Leaning to talk about how you feel is important. Below you will learn some phrases and vocabulary to help you talk about your feelings and emotions in English.

Asking Someone 'How they are?'
How are you?
How are you feeling?
How's it going?
How you doing?

If Feeling Good, Say…
I'm good.
I'm great.
Not too bad.

If Feeling Bad, Say…
I've been better.
Not too great.
I'm a little under the weather.

Other Common Feelings:
I'm bored.
I'm disappointed.
I'm tried.
I'm sleepy.
I'm exhausted.
I'm depressed.

Phrases to Help You Express Your Feelings
I don't like when you _____.
I feel _____ when _____.
I don't like it when it _____. It makes me feel _____.

Additional Resources:
Video: Learn Emotions and Feelings

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Agreeing and Disagreeing

Learning how to agree and disagree with a statement is important. Below you will learn phrases to help you do this.

The most common ways to agree:
"**Me too**." (Response to a positive statement)
"**Me neither**." (Response to a negative statement)

Examples of Agreeing:
I love this weather. Respond: "Me too."
I like chocolate cake. Respond: "Me too."
I don't like sea food. Respond: "Me neither."
I haven't ever been here before. Respond: "Me neither."

"**So do I**" (Response to a simple positive statement)
"**Neither do I**" (Response to a simple negative statement)

Examples of Agreeing:
I love Mickey Mouse. Respond: "So do I,"
I don't like spicy food. Respond: "Neither do I."

The most common ways to disagree:
"I don't."

Examples of Disagreeing:
I like pizza. Respond: "I don't."
I love Justin Bieber. Respond: "I don't."

Additional Resources:
Multiple Ways to Agree & Disagree
Video: How to Agree and Disagree in English
Video: Agreeing to do Something
Video: How to Disagree in English
Video: How to Agree with So, Neither and Too

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Similarities and Differences

Being able to make comparisons is important. Below you will learn some common phrases to help you talk about similarities and differences.

Sentence Starters to Talk about Similarities
_____ is like _____.
_____ is similar to _____.
They both _____.
They don't _____.
They can't _____.

Example Sentences:
This is like that.
They both can swim great.
They can't read yet.
Emily is similar to James. They both love to dance.

Sentence Starters to Talk about Differences
_____ is bigger than _____.
_____ is smaller than _____.
_____ is better than _____.
_____ is more expensive than _____.
_____ is nicer than _____.
_____ is more helpful than _____.

Example Sentences:
The elephant is bigger than the mouse.
The BMW is more expensive than the Honda.
This shirt is nicer than that one.

Additional Resources:
Video: Comparisons
Video: Making Comparisons
Comparing/Contrasting Activity

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Stating Your Opinion

When you want to express what you think about something there are many different sentence starters that you can use.

I think…
In my opinion…
I'd suggest…
In my mind…
In my experience…
Personally, I think…
If you want an honest opinion…
As far as I'm concerned…
I'd say…
The way I see it…
I am of the opinion that…
I believe that…
If you ask me…
As far as I understand it…
As I see it…
It seems to me that…
My personal view is that…

Example Sentences:
1- I think pizza is the best food ever.
2- It seems to me that she doesn't know what she is doing.
3- In my experience, people are more productive in silence.
4- I believe that he is one of the best actors.
5- I'd suggest we go to McDonalds instead of Burger King.

Additional Resources:
1- Video on how to express your opinion in English.
2- Another video on how to give your opinion in English.

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Complaining

You complain when something does not go or is not right. There are many expressions you can use to complain in English.

I'm sorry to bother you but…
There seems to be a problem with…
Can you please help me with…
I want to complain about…
Could you please tell me why…
I'm sorry to say this but…
I hate to tell you but…
I'm not satisfied with…

Example Complaints:
- I'm sorry to bother you but I need more ketchup.
- There seems to be a problem with my order. I didn't get the right thing.
- I hate to tell you but this food is cold.
- I'm not satisfied with the service. The waiter hasn't been to our - table in more than 20 minutes.

Additional Resources:
Text with Audio: How to Complain in English
Video: 5 Useful Phrases to Politely Complain in English
Video: Making a Complaint
Video: Complaining at a Restaurant

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Requesting Information/Asking for Something

If you know how to make a request politely you will make a better impression on others. Being polite is important, with your friends, family and strangers.

Would you please… ?
Could you please…?
Can you please… ? (informal)

Example Sentences:
- Would you please wake me up at 7am?
- Could you please carry my suitcase? It's really heavy.
- Could you please fill out this form?
- Would you please bring us two cups of coffee with sugar?
- Could you please tell me your name again? I seem to have forgotten it.
- Would you please call Mr. Peterson and tell him I am running late?
- Can you please give me another drink?
- Could you please say that again?

Would you mind… ?

Example Sentences:
-Would you mind closing the door? It's really loud out there.
-Would you mind telling me where you bought this salad? It's delicious.
-Would you mind turning down the music? I can't hear you.
-Would you mind if I used your phone really quickly? I have to call my grandmother.

Additional Resources:
Video: Making polite requests

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Asking questions

There are many different ways to ask questions in English. Below you will find the most common question words and there are many resources for you to use to improve your ability to ask and answer questions.

Most common question words:
Who…?
What…?
Where…?
When…?
Why…?
How…?
How many…?
How much…?

Is _____?
Are_____?
Do_____?
Did_____?

Example Questions:
What time is it?
Is this yours?
Are you in line?
How much does this cost?
Where is he?
Did you see the movie?

Additional Resources:
Video: How to Ask Questions
Video: The easy way to ask questions
Video: Question Formation
Video: How to Understand Native Speakers Questions
Text: How to Form Yes/No Questions in English

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Interjections

Interjections are a sound people make that has a common meaning. There are tons of common interjections in English. You most likely have heard them and maybe you use them as well.

Mmmmmmmm!
Expresses: Something tastes good. Is delicious.

Yeah!
Expresses: Agreement

Duh!!
Expresses: When something seems obvious or foolish.

Just Kidding!
Expresses: Used to regret something you just said. Means ‘just tricking’ or joking’. It’s not real.

Shhhhh…!
Expresses: To be quiet. Silence.

Wow!
Expresses: Surprise

Um…
Expresses: Uncertainty or confusion

Yuck!
Expresses: Disgust.

Additional Resources:
Text & Audio: 20 Interjections in English
Video: 10 Interjections Examples in English Conversation
Video: Interjections in English
Interjection Word List

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